



## **Paul's Instructions regarding the coming of Jesus.**

### **2 Thessalonians 2:1-2**

**Do you look forward to the mail coming every day?**

**The method of instruction to an individual, groups, or churches in Paul's day was by an epistle/letter.**

*Think of how difficult it would have been in those days to send a letter. (Paper, pen and the post office??) Not quite like it is today.*

*When did Paul have the time to write and assure delivery of these precious concerns/truths?*

### **Paul's comforts the troubled Thessalonians**

**2 Thessalonians 2:1-2**, "Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, we ask you, not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as if from us, as though the day of Christ had come." *ESV*

#### **1. Concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him:**

Paul addresses questions raised by his first letter...where he instructed the Thessalonians about the catching away (the Rapture) of the church to be with Jesus ([1 Thessalonians 4:16-18](#)).

- This chapter is a *supplement* to what Paul has already taught the Thessalonians in his teachings. We don't know exactly what Paul said to them about this.
- This chapter gives us insight as to what he taught.

#### **2. Concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and the Rapture:** Paul adequately and truthfully wrote about the return of Jesus.

However, the wording in these two verses implies a difference between **the coming** and **our gathering**.

- ***This strongly suggests that there are essentially two comings of Jesus.***
  1. The coming *for* His church (as described clearly in [1 Thessalonians 4:16-18](#)),
  2. Coming *with* His church, to judge a rebellious world.

**Other passages of Scripture indicate that there must be two aspects of Jesus' second coming, and the aspects must be separated by some appreciable period of time.**

1. Different world conditions are described ([Matthew 24:37-42](#), [Matthew 24:21](#), [Revelation 6:15-16](#)).
2. Different manners of Jesus' return are described ([1 Thessalonians 4:16-17](#), [Revelation 19:11, 14-15, 21](#)).
3. Different scenarios regarding the predictability of the date of Jesus' return are established ([Matthew 24:36](#), [Daniel 12:11](#)).

**Paul compassionately tells them not to be shaken in mind or troubled:**

It is quite apparent that a misunderstanding of Paul's teaching (or an incorrect application of it) had caused the Thessalonians to be **shaken in mind** and **troubled**.

The Thessalonians' fears centered on the idea that **the day of Christ had** already **come**.

"The word *to be shaken*, signifies to be agitated as a ship at sea in a storm, and strongly marks the confusion and distress which the Thessalonians had felt in their false apprehension of this coming of Christ." (Clarke)

***Is it the Day of the Lord or the Day of Christ? (2 Thessalonians 2:2)***

***The day of the Lord is a concept with a rich Old Testament background mentioned in Paul's previous letter to the Thessalonians ([1 Thessalonians 5:2](#)).***

Note: It is not a single day, but a period associated with God's outpouring of judgment and the deliverance of God's people. A significant aspect of the *day of the Lord* is the Great Tribulation described in [Matthew 24:1-31](#).

**“As though the day of Christ had come:”**

*It should be obvious that the **day of Christ** had not been completed. The Thessalonians were afraid that they were in the Great Tribulation (the day of the Lord), and feared that they had missed the rapture.*

**Is that a fear amongst Christians today?**

**Paul will demonstrate that they are not in the day of Christ; because if they were, then certain signs would be present.**

- *Paul had clearly taught them that they would escape God’s judgment on this earth during the period known as the day of the Lord or the **day of Christ** (1 Thessalonians 4:14-18).*

**“Either by spirit or by word or by letter:”**

**This is pertinent and noteworthy:**

1. **Troubled and shaken by:** (they were upset at the idea that they had somehow missed the rapture).

- Perhaps their fears came through a misguided prophecy (**spirit**). There were false prophets who had the lingo and the energy to present lies as truth. The Word of God tells us to test the spirits.

*1 John 4:1-3, 1 John 4, “Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world. Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God: And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world. ...”*

- **By word.** Someone was teaching that in their gatherings. Personal opinions can sway a person’s thinking. Paul is saying someone was speaking to you without the Spirit of the Living God. It could have been some “smooth talker” who was giving false information about the Lord...or Paul’s preaching/teaching.
- Perhaps some other leader wrote the Thessalonians a **letter** teaching that they were already in the **day of Christ**.

This was the only means of communication besides speaking face to face or sending a messenger to speak to a congregation about the Lord.

**Are you troubled about the “Gathering Away”? Why?**

**If it is because you are not ready...Get ready!**

- **Any sins not confessed?...Confess them.**
- **Any ill-will toward fellow man?...Contact those you have had trouble with and make amends!**
- **Let confession and forgiveness bring joy!**

**For those who are ready...Get someone not ready on board...for the ship of Zion is coming into port. Waiting to meet us in the air!**

